

**Review of Palaearctic *Autalia* Leach in Samouelle, 1819. IV.
New species and additional records (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae,
Aleocharinae)**

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Review of Palaearctic *Autalia* Leach in Samouelle, 1819. IV. New species and additional records (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). - *Autalia brevipflagellata* sp. n. (Nepal) and *A. limata* sp. n. (China: Sichuan) are described, figured, and distinguished from similar congeners. The previously unknown female sexual characters of *A. formosa* Assing from Taiwan are described and illustrated. Additional records of *A. smetanai* Pace and *A. longicornis* Scheerpeltz are presented; the latter is recorded from Syria for the first time.

Key-words: Coleoptera - Staphylinidae - Aleocharinae - *Autalia* - Palaearctic region - Nepal - Himalaya - China - Taiwan - Syria - taxonomy - new species.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Autalia* currently includes 24 species worldwide, nine of them occurring in the Palaearctic region (Assing 1997, 1998, 1999). An examination of previously unidentified material especially from the collections of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève (MHNG) not only yielded some faunistically remarkable records, but also the previously unknown female of *A. formosa* Assing and two species new to science, which are here described. The material listed below is deposited in the MHNG, the author's collection (cAss), and in the collection of B. Feldmann, Münster (cFel).

NEW SPECIES AND RECORDS OF PALAEARCTIC *AUTALIA*

Autalia longicornis Scheerpeltz

Material examined: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Syria, Kassab, 5.V.1990, leg. Reuter (cAss, cFel).

This widespread W-Palaearctic species is here for the first time recorded from Syria.

Autalia smetanai Pace

Material examined: Nepal: 10 ex. [partly teneral], Khandbari Distr., Kosi, Chichila, S Ahale, 2200m, 4.IV.1984, leg. Löbl & Smetana (MHNG, cAss); 14 ex., Khandbari Distr., Kosi, Induwa Khola valley, 2000-2050m, 14.-17.IV.1984, leg. Löbl & Smetana (MHNG, cAss); 1 ♂, Kosi, forest NE Kuwapani, 2350m, 5.IV.1984, leg. Löbl & Smetana (cAss).

Autalia breviflagellata sp. n.

Figs 1-4

Holotype ♂: NEPAL Kathmandu, Dis. Siwapuri, Dara. 2500m. 1.V.1985. A. Smetana / Holotypus ♂ *Autalia breviflagellata* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2000 (MHNG).

Description: Of similar size and general appearance as *A. smetanai*, but distinguished as follows:

Pronotum with more distinct and somewhat denser puncturation, especially in posterior half; median and lateral furrows shallower and less clear-cut; postero-lateral grooves anteriorly extending into short shallow furrow (in *A. smetanai*, this extension is usually absent). Tibiae shorter and less slender, metatibia in the holotype 0.36 mm (in *A. smetanai* usually at least 0.45 mm, rarely shorter). Abdomen with the anterior impressions of terga III-V with distinct microreticulation and almost mat (in *A. smetanai* without distinct microsculpture) and with 5 distinct carinae (in *A. smetanai*, the carinae between the median carina and the lateral carinae are usually less pronounced); puncturation of terga V-VII somewhat denser and less fine than in *A. smetanai*.

♂: tergum VIII posteriorly weakly concave (Fig. 3); posterior margin of sternum VIII distinctly pointed in the middle (Fig. 4); tergum X relatively short and broad, anterior two thirds with dense and very stout setae (Fig. 2); aedeagus with apex of median lobe of similar shape as in *A. rivularis* (Gravenhorst), much shorter and less slender than in *A. smetanai*; basal part of median lobe somewhat resembling that in *A. smetanai*, but with weakly prominent crista apicalis; flagellum shorter and wider than in other Palaearctic congeners, and apically distinctly bent (Fig. 1).

♀: unknown.

Derivatio nominis: The name (Lat., adj.) refers to the remarkably short flagellum in the internal sac of the aedeagus, which distinguishes this species from its Palaearctic congeners.

Comparative notes: For distinction from the similar Himalayan *A. smetanai* see description above. From other Palaearctic representatives of the genus, it particularly differs in the morphology of the median lobe of the aedeagus.

Distribution: The species is known only from central Nepal, where it was collected in the beginning of May at an altitude of 2500m. As can be inferred from the fully developed hind wings, it is probably more widespread at least in the Himalayas.

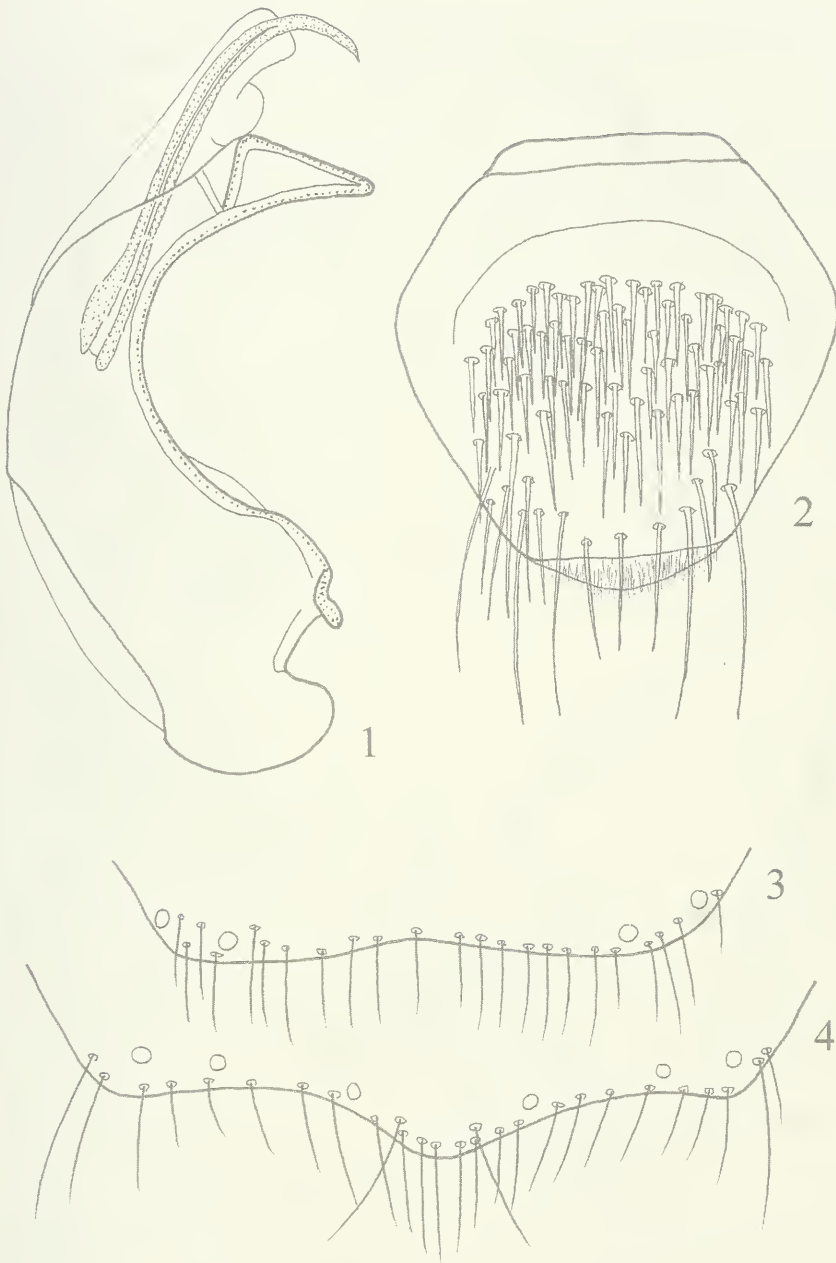
Autalia limata sp. n.

Figs 5-11

Holotype ♂: China, Sichuan, Xiling Mt., 1600-2400m, litter, 30.07-4.8.96, leg. S. Kurbatov / Holotypus ♂ *Autalia limata* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2000 (MHNG). Paratypes: 4♀, same data as holotype (MHNG, cAss).

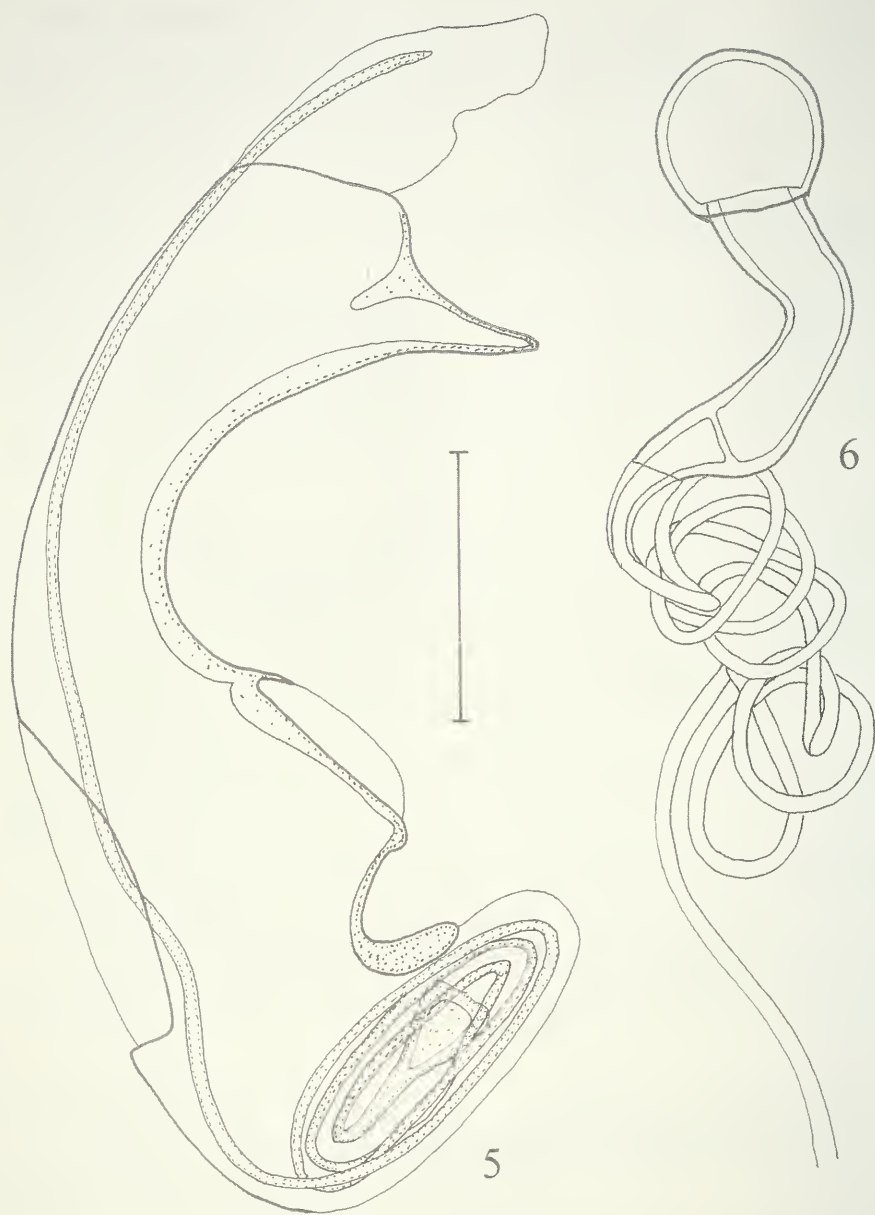
Description: Highly similar and apparently closely related to *A. schuelkei* Assing from W-Sichuan, distinguished only by the following characters:

Pronotum with extremely fine puncturation; punctures in area between antero-lateral furrows noticeable only at very high magnifications. (In *A. schuelkei*, the puncturation in this area is fine, but well-defined and visible at a magnification of 50x.).



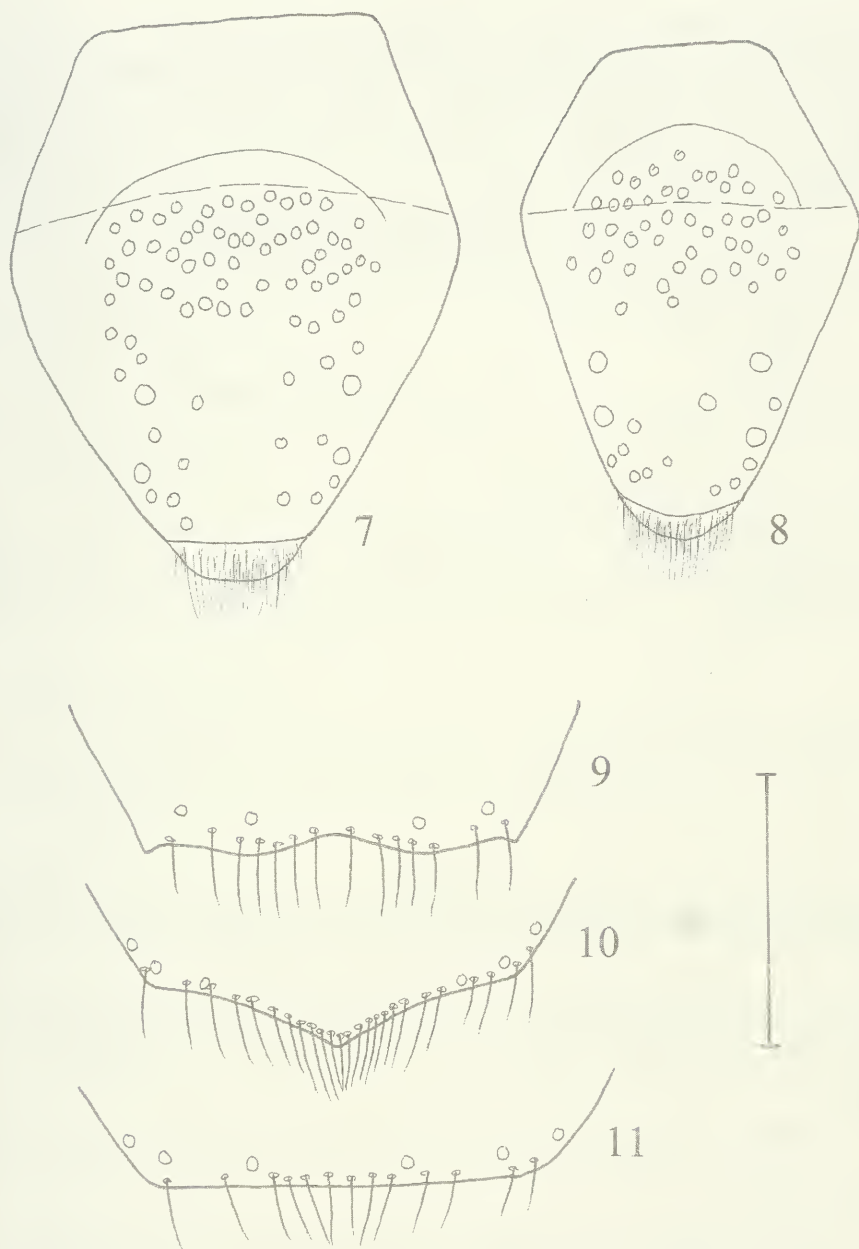
FIGS 1-4

Aulia brevisflagellata sp. n. (holotype): median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view (1); δ tergum X (2); posterior margin of δ tergum VIII (3); posterior margin of δ sternum VIII (4); long setae omitted in 3 - 4. Scale: 0.1 mm.



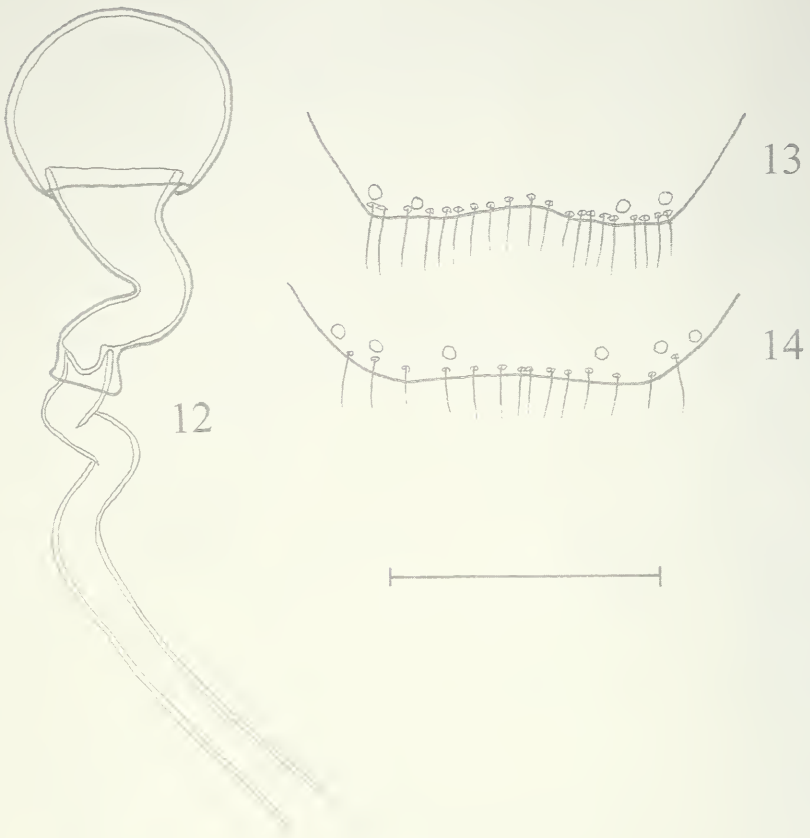
FIGS 5-6

Antalia limata sp. n. (5: holotype): median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view (5); spermatheca (6). Scale: 0.1 mm.



FIGS 7-11

Autalia limata sp. n. (7, 10: holotype): ♂ tergum X (7); ♀ tergum X (8); posterior margin of ♀ sternum VIII (9); posterior margin of ♂ sternum VIII (10); posterior margin of ♀ sternum VIII (11); all setae omitted in 7-8, long setae omitted in 9-11. Scales: 7-8: 0.1 mm, 9-11: 0.2 mm.



FIGS 12-14

Autalia formosa Assing: spermatheca (12); posterior margin of ♀ tergum VIII (13); posterior margin of ♀ sternum VIII (14); long setae omitted in 13 - 14. Scale: 12: 0.1 mm, 13 - 14: 0.2 mm.

♂: tergum VIII posteriorly as in ♀; posterior margin of sternum VIII distinctly pointed in the middle (Fig. 10); tergum X more slender than in *A. schuelkei* (Fig. 7); median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view less strongly bent and with shorter apex (Fig. 5).

♀: tergum VIII posteriorly sinuate (Fig. 9); hind margin of sternum VIII truncate (Fig. 11); tergum X apically less acute than in *A. schuelkei* (Fig. 8); spermatheca as in Fig. 6.

Derivatio nominis: The name (Lat.: smoothed) refers to the very shiny pronotum with barely discernible puncturation, the only external character distinguishing this species from *A. schuelkei*.

Comparative notes and phylogenetics: Judging from external characters (pronotal puncturation and furrows, short elytra, reduced hind wings), the secondary sexual characters (shape and chaetotaxy of tergum VIII, sternum VIII, and tergum X).

and from the highly similar morphology of the aedeagus and the spermatheca, *A. limata* is a very close relative, probably the sister species of *A. schuelkei*, which, too, occurs in Sichuan. For illustrations of the primary and secondary sexual characters of that species see Assing (1998). All other Palaearctic congeners are readily distinguished from *A. limata* by their larger eyes (in *A. limata* less than half the length of postgenae and not distinctly projecting from lateral outline of head in dorsal view), relatively longer and wider elytra (distinctly wider than abdomen), the presence of hind wings, and by the completely different morphology of the genitalia.

Distribution: *A. limata* is known only from the type locality in Sichuan (China). As can be inferred from the reduced elytra and wings, it probably has a restricted distribution.

Autalia formosa Assing

Figs 12-14

Material examined: Taiwan: 2 ♀♀, Chiai Hsien, Alishan, 2200m, 26.IV.1990, leg. Smetana (MHNG, cAss).

The species is here reported from Taiwan for the second time. Since only the male holotype of this species was previously known, the female sexual characters are here described and illustrated: Tergum X relatively broad and short, posteriorly acute; posterior margins of tergum and sternum VIII as in Figs 13 - 14; spermatheca with relatively short and wide duct (Fig. 12).

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